

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 5, 2002, Applicant has amended the drawings and specification in order to address the Examiner's objections to the omission or use of duplicate reference numbers. Claim 3 has been canceled and claim 1 has been clarified to address the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 4-6 and 8 have been cancelled as being directed to a non-elected embodiment. Claim 9 has been cancelled as being directed to a non-elected species. The specification and drawings have been amended to address the Examiner's rejections.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 7 and 10 by suggesting that those claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,154,104. The Examiner has also suggested that claims 1-2, 7 and 10 are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,417,683.

In Applicant's pole apparatus, a tool having a mounting portion is adapted to engage and be removably secured to a first connector by a locking apparatus. This ability to secure, remove and interchange tools gives Applicant's pole apparatus a clear advantage over the prior art. The '104 patent does not teach or disclose the use a locking apparatus or the advantage of interchangeable tools. Indeed, if a device of the '104 patent were to incorporate a locking apparatus in a manner similar to Applicant's pole apparatus, it would render that device inoperative since the user would not be able to release the rod hanger bolt, etc., once the bolt was threaded into the ceiling.

The '683 patent is directed to a telescopic wrench. However, that reference clearly does not include a second connector having an arm that is engageable by a rotary tool.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in proper form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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Judith T. Lange



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

Preferably, a bore 42 is defined through an interior floor 44 of the first connector 28. The bore 42 preferably extends through the floor 44 and communicates with the interior 20 of the body 12 of the pole apparatus 12. [The floor 44 of the bore 42 is preferably tapered inwardly to form a seat 46, the function of which will be described below.] A tapered seat 46 is formed in the connector 28, the function of which will be described below.

The paragraph beginning on line 10 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

As best seen in Figure [4] 5, the bore 42 includes an upper portion 48 and a lower portion 50 having offset sidewalls that are substantially hexagonal in shape. Preferably, the upper 48 and lower 50 portion of the bore 42 have the same diameter. However, it is appreciated that the upper portion 48 may be constructed to have a diameter that is greater than that of the lower portion 50. Additionally, a base [52] 51 of the bore 42 is preferably circular and has a diameter that is equal to or less than that of the lower portion 50. As best seen in Figures 12 and 13, the hexagonal shape of the upper 48 and lower portions of the bore 42 permit it to receive various sizes of commercially available rod hanger screws having a hex base, such as those produced by Elco under the name HangerMate®.

The paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 7 has been amended as follows:

Preferably, the head portion 66 of the tool 60 of the preferred embodiment includes a steel, or alternatively aluminum, cylinder 70 having a pair of perpendicular channels 72a, 72b extending substantially the entire length of the cylinder. The channels 72a, 72b thereby forming four head segments 73 extending upwardly from a base 74. A retainer ring [74] 75 is preferably disposed around the cylinder 70 and contacts flanges 76 that extend from the upper portion of each of the segments 73.

The paragraph beginning on line 20 of page 7 has been amended as follows:

Referring now to Figure 8, there is shown a second alternative embodiment for a tool for use in accordance with the present invention. The head portion 266 of the first alternative tool 260 includes a threaded stud 280 extending upwardly from a substantially circular base 282. The stud 280, similar to the first alternative embodiment, functions as an adapter for mounting Ramsets S Caps. Preferably, this second alternative tool 260 includes a mounting portion 262 having at least one planar alignment face 264 and a tapered end 268. The tool 260 is therefore inserted and seated into the first connector 28 as previously discussed. A mounting channel 282 is also preferably disposed about the mounting portion 262 and is engagable by the locking screw 40 after insertion of the tool 260. Upon insertion, the base [282] 283 is preferably seated on the top of the first connector 28.

The paragraph beginning on line 9 of page 8 has been amended as follows:

Referring now to Figure 9, there is shown a third alternative embodiment of a tool for use in connection with the present invention. The head portion 366 of the third alternative tool 360 preferably includes a cylindrical body 384 extending

upwardly from a base [382] 383 and a tapered top portion 386. A hexagonal bore 388 in axial alignment with the body 12 and having a predetermined diameter, extends into the body 384 from its top surface 390 and is adapted to receive a standard hex driver (e.g., a 1/4' hex driver). Preferably, the third alternative tool 360 includes a mounting portion 362 having at least one planar alignment face 364 and a tapered end 368. The tool 360 is therefore inserted and seated into the first connector 28 as previously discussed. A mounting channel 382 is also preferably disposed about in the mounting portion 362 and is engagable by the locking screw 40 after insertion of the tool 360. Upon insertion, the base 382 is preferably seated on the top of the first connector 28.

The paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 9 has been amended as follows:

Referring now to Figure 10, there is shown a fourth alternative embodiment of a tool for use in connection with the present invention. Preferably, the head portion 466 of the third alternative tool 460 includes a cylindrical body 490 having tapered top portion 492. A bore 488 in axial alignment with the body 12 and having a predetermined diameter extends through the body 490 from its top surface 494 to communicate with the interior 20 of the body 12. Preferably, the bore 488 includes a seat 496 for support and is adapted to receive a standard screw 498 for hanging threaded rods (e.g., Sammy Super Screws® or HangerMate® screws). Notably, when hanging threaded rod, the rod (not shown) will extend downwardly through the bore 488 and into the interior 20 of the body 12. Preferably, this fourth alternative tool 460 includes a mounting portion 462 having at least one planar alignment face 464 and a tapered end 468. The tool 460 is therefore inserted and seated into the first connector

28 as previous discussed. A mounting channel 482 is also preferably disposed [about] in the mounting portion 462 and is engagable by the locking screw 40 after insertion of the tool 460.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

- 1 1. (Amended) A pole apparatus comprising:
 - 2 a telescoping [tubular] body having an interior, [said body defining an aperture extending into the interior of the body and having] an open end and a closed end, and defining an aperture that permits access into said interior;
 - 5 a first connector mounted on [the] said open end of said body, said first connector defining [a] an axial bore in communication with said interior of [the] said body and having a locking apparatus adapted to extend into said axial bore; [and]
 - 8 a second connector mounted on said closed end of said body, said second connector having a base and [a] an arm extending outwardly from said base in axial alignment with said body, said arm being engagable by a rotary tool; and
 - 11 a tool[, said tool] having a mounting portion adapted to engage said first connector and being removably secured to said first connector by said locking apparatus [and be removably secured within said bore of said first connector and a head portion].

Claims 3-6 have been canceled.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

1 7. (Amended) The pole apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first connector
2 further comprises a hexagonal side wall.

Claims 8-10 have been canceled.

New claims 11-17 have been added.